

for the important role it has played in our Nation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, again I thank Chairman SENBRENNER for his great help.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 311

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol was established on December 1, 1941, in the Office of Civilian Defense;

Whereas during World War II the volunteer units of the Civil Air Patrol conducted search and rescue missions, provided air transportation for military personnel and cargo, towed targets for the training of Army Air Corps gunners, and patrolled the coasts of the United States searching for enemy submarines;

Whereas by the end of World War II the Civil Air Patrol had flown more than 500,000 hours, sunk 2 German U-boats, and saved hundreds of crash victims;

Whereas on July 1, 1946, the Civil Air Patrol was chartered by the United States as a nonprofit, benevolent corporation;

Whereas on May 26, 1948, the Civil Air Patrol was permanently established as a volunteer auxiliary of the United States Air Force;

Whereas since 1942 the cadet programs of the Civil Air Patrol have trained approximately 750,000 youth, providing them with leadership and life skills;

Whereas since 1942 the Civil Air Patrol has flown more than 1,000,000 hours of search and rescue missions, saving several thousand lives; and

Whereas since 1951 the aerospace education programs of the Civil Air Patrol have provided training and educational materials to more than 300,000 teachers, who have educated more than 8,000,000 students about aerospace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes the Civil Air Patrol for 60 years of service to the United States.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of House Concurrent Resolution 311 just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H.

Con. Res. 335) recognizing the significance of Black History Month and the contributions of black Americans as a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) to explain the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 335 expresses the sense of Congress that the contributions of black Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and that the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and acknowledgment of Black History Month, a great tradition honoring and celebrating black Americans. This 74-year tradition seeks to broaden our vision of the world, the legacy of black Americans in our Nation's history, and their role in our Nation's future. I commend the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the first black Americans were brought to these shores as early as the 17th century. These black Americans and subsequent generations were enslaved and brought to America against their free will. Despite this setback, early black Americans made their mark in the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States. Black Americans have also contributed to protecting the Nation's security and freedom through service in the Armed Forces. In addition, they have built many of the Nation's strongest faith-based institutions which serve the Nation's poorest citizens, strengthen the Nation's moral code, and uplift its spirits.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we stand today and recognize the achievements of black Americans. Their heritage and history are invaluable learning tools to the people of our great Nation. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, when I think of this bill, which was introduced by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), I think of the words of Langston Hughes, the African-American poet, who stated:

"O, let America be America again.

The land that never has been yet

And yet must be.

The land where every man is free.

The land that's mine—

The poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, me—

Who made America,

Whose sweat and blood,

Whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry,
Whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again."

□ 1130

That is from "Let America be America Again." Those eloquent words of celebrated African American poet and writer Langston Hughes resound today as we celebrate Black History Month and as we discuss this resolution recognizing the significance of Black History Month.

On February 1, 2002, Mr. Hughes joined the other 24 prominent African Americans distinguished by having a stamp issued in their honor as part of the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage Stamp service.

There was certainly a time in our not-too-distant past when this would have been unthinkable, issuing stamps depicting prominent African Americans. Indeed, this was the case in February 1926 when renowned African American educator Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American History and Life, designated a week in February coinciding with the birthdays of two great Americans, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, as Negro History Week. Mr. Woodson hoped that the contributions of African Americans would be studied as integral to our shared American history. Fifty years later, in 1976, the observance was expanded to embrace the entire month of February, and here we are today commemorating yet another Black History Month.

In 1926, the landscape in this country for African Americans was demonstrably different than it is today. At that time, "separate but equal," a doctrine that afforded Black Americans second-class citizenship, was the law of the land, although an immoral one.

Through the heroic efforts of many Americans of all races, legalized discrimination became a thing of the past. This body passed landmark legislation, most notably the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. However, the story of racial discrimination did not end in 1965.

Here we are in 2002, and the theme for this year's observance of Black History Month is most appropriately timed: "The color line revisited: Is racism dead?" The answer obviously is a resounding "no."

One only needs to read the newspapers from around the country every day to see that racism is not dead. New York Times, January 15: "New Jersey troopers avoid jail in case that high-lighted profiling."

Chicago Tribune, January 21: "Racial profiling is bad policing."

Detroit Free Press, January 11: "Black Arab-American leaders assail racial profiling."

Denver Post, November 28, 2001: "Hispanics, Blacks, get searched more."

Dallas Morning News, January 2, 2002: "Racial profiling ban takes effect."